



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

April 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS Observers

FROM: David Potter
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Updated Species Weight Tally Sheets, 05/06

This memo is to notify you that new versions of the Species Weight Tally Sheets are now available (dated 05/06) and copies are enclosed. This includes the Species Weight Tally Sheets for U.S./Canada Area Trips (program code 130) and Regular B-DAS Program Trips (program code 150). Please use these new tally sheets for all trips that will land after May 1st, 2006. The tally sheets are also available online at: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/> under "Manuals/References".

These changes were instituted as a result of new regulations implementing an emergency management action to immediately reduce fishing mortality on specific groundfish stocks for the start of the 2006 fishing year on May 1, 2006.

The changes on both of the tally sheets include:

- Added column for VMS code, Flipped (yes or no); and
- Added column for Flexed (O=Flexed Out, W=Flexed West, N=Did Not Flex).

For the U.S./Canada (USC) Tally Sheet, the following changes were made:

- Added column for Area Fished (WA=Western Area, EA=Eastern Area, ES=Eastern Haddock Special Access Program, OA=Open Area); and
- Added kept and discard column for winter flounder.

The following protocol changes were made:

- Ask the captain for the VMS code at the beginning of the trip;
- Ask the captain at the end of the trip if they flipped or flexed during the trip.



For Eastern Area and Eastern Haddock Special Access Program trips, include species weights for all observed hauls (inside or outside USC Area); and for Western Area trips only include species weights for hauls inside the Western Area (status quo).

This memo will further describe the changes mentioned above in a Frequently Asked Questions format. A laminated USC Cheat Sheet has been included with this memo to aide you in properly completing the Tally Sheets. Also, included with this memo is the Small Entity Compliance Guide to Northeast Multispecies Permit Holders, dated April 10, 2006 regarding the implementation of the interim emergency rule. This will provide you with the details of the regulations if you are interested.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the USC and Regular B-DAS Program Species Weight Tally Sheets:

Q: How do I know which Tally Sheet to use?

A: Ask the captain what fishery(ies) they have declared into at the beginning of the trip. If they are participating in the Regular B-DAS Program, use the Regular B-DAS Program Species Weight Tally Sheet (even if they are also fishing in the USC Area).

Q: What is a VMS code?

A: VMS stands for “Vessel Monitoring System”. The VMS machine may also be referred to as a “black box”. It transmits the vessel’s location via satellite, for use by the US Coast Guard and NOAA Enforcement, and can also be used as an email system. Vessels participating in the Regular B-DAS Program and/or fishing in the USC Area must have a VMS machine. For certain fisheries, they must enter a VMS Code prior to crossing the demarcation zone (leaving the port in most cases) in order to legally fish. There are currently two VMS providers (BoatTracs and Skymate). Once the vessel has declared that it is going fishing in a fishery identified by the VMS Code, it will receive an email confirmation from the VMS provider with authorization to go fishing.

Q: What are the USC Area VMS codes?

Any NE Multispecies DAS vessel that fishes with the USC Area is required to use a VMS and declare its intent to fish in one of the sub-areas of the USC through VMS prior to leaving the dock. There are four USC sub-areas available in Fishing Year 2006:

Area 2: Eastern USC Area Outside of Closed Area II

Area 4: Western USC Area Only

Area 5: Eastern USC Area Haddock SAP

Area 6: Eastern USC Area and the Eastern USC Area Haddock SAP

Q: What does “flipped” mean?

A: NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing under a Category B (regular or reserve) DAS may flip its DAS to a Category A DAS if their catch of regulated groundfish exceeds the allowed catch limits.



Q: What does “flexed” mean?

A: A vessel may elect to fish inside and outside the USC Area on the same trip, provided the vessel declares its intent to do so via VMS. Flexing will apply to Eastern Area trips and gives the vessel flexibility to fish outside the Eastern Area on the same trip. To declare a vessel’s intent to fish outside of the specific USC Areas, they must select one of the following options:

Area 4 + Open: Allows a vessel to fish inside and outside of the Western USC Area on the same trip and must be submitted prior to leaving the dock at the start of the trip.

Flex Out: This declaration allows a vessel to fish in the Eastern USC Area and outside of the Eastern USC Area on the same trip. This can be done prior to leaving the dock or prior to leaving the Eastern USC Area.

Flex West: This declaration allows a vessel to fish in the Eastern USC Area and within the Western USC Area on the same trip. This can be done prior to leaving the dock or prior to leaving the Eastern USC Area.

Ask the captain at the end of the trip if they “flexed”, and if so whether they “Flexed Out” or “Flexed West”.

Please contact Amy Van Atten if you have other questions or concerns, at 508-495-2266 or by email at Amy.Van.Atten@noaa.gov.

Enclosures:

- ▶ U.S. / Canada Area Trips Species Weight Tally Sheets (30);
- ▶ Regular B-DAS Program Trips Species Weight Tally Sheets (30);
- ▶ Laminated USC Tally Sheet Cheat Sheet; and
- ▶ April 10, 2006 Small Entity Compliance Guide for Northeast Multippecies Permit Holders.

